environmental problems and concerns of the region as also of various environmentalists and agencies. In order to supplement and make the different programmes effective, the G.B. Pant Institute has been asked to prepare an Action Plan which should comprehensively project various environment and development related problems and actions to mitigate them. An Expert Group has also been set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.Z. Qasim, Member, Planning Commission to formulate National Policy on the Himalaya for integrated development taking into consideration the ecological and environmental factors, resource availability and socio-economic character of the region.

**National River Action Plan**

3342. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch the National River Action Plan to clean up polluted stretches of major rivers in the country;

(b) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has identified such polluted stretches of the rivers in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the estimated cost of the entire project;

(d) whether the State Government's are to share any cost of the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) A National River Action Plan for pollution abatement of polluted stretches of some major rivers of the country identified on the basis of surveys by the Central Pollution Control Board is under formulation. Details in this regard are being worked out. The Action Plan, when approved, is proposed to be undertaken on sharing of cost between the Centre and the States concerned on 50:50 basis.

**Assessment of the proposal regarding Shrimp Culture**

3343. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to sent two observers to assess the proposed shrimp culture joint venture enterprise of the Tatas and Orissa Government;

(b) if so, furnish facts of the matter in regard to the observations made in news report in the Business standard dated 19th November, 1992 and present status of the proposal; and

(c) what are the observations of visiting experts on the projects and the details of action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests had sent a three-member team to visit the site of the Prawn Culture Project at Chilka lake. The team observed that two shrimp farms have been constructed with permanent bunding of 2-3 meters height above mean sea level. However, further construction work has been suspended. The State Government of Orissa has been advised to gather a multi-disciplinary team having, among others, a limnologist, a hydrologist, a fisheries biologist, a wildlife expert to carry out an in depth environment impact assessment study of the project.

**Leasing of Chilka Lake**

3344. SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Government of Orissa

to lease a portion of Chilka lake to Tatas for Prawn culture; and

(b) whether it is a fact that such prawn culture was practised in Taiwan earlier and has ultimately failed due to toxic effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There are some published reports that the prawn culture involving semi-intensive and intensive technology have not proved ecologically viable in the long-run in some countries of South-east Asia.

**Pollution caused by Orient Paper Mills to Hirakud Dam**

3345. SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pollution caused by Orient Paper Mills, Brajraj Nagar, Sambalpur, Orissa by releasing its effluents to Hirakud Dam; and

(b) whether it is a fact that these effluents are responsible for the cracks in Hirakud Dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Orient Paper Mills have installed pollution control equipment and also initiated a project for using land as a treatment system for its effluent. The National Council for Building Materials had done a detailed study on the cracks in the Hirakud Dam. They concluded that the composition of the material used in the construction of the Dam was the reason for the cracks.

**United Nations Development Programmes**

3346. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Development Programmes would assist in strengthening the capability of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and other institutes in forestry research;

(b) if so, what are the details of the projects on which U.N.D.P. would assist;

(c) the terms and conditions of the UNDP in assisting the forestry research programmes; and

(d) the allocations made by Government for the said task during the current plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The UNDP is assisting a project "Strengthening and Developing the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education" which is to be implemented over a period of five years i.e. 1992 to 1997 with Government of India contribution being Rs. 21.94 million and UNDP assistance in the nature of grants-in-aid being US $ 2.56 million respectively.

The salient components incorporated in the project include intensive training in research management for the Directors of the ICFRE institutes, short term visits of scientists and research demonstrators, purchase of equipment and material, organising of training and demonstrations for farmers, women and tribals, collaboration with State research organisations for dissemination of technological packages; utilisation of national and international consultancy services and undertaking of survey and studies related to forestry problems.